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NSC BRIEFING

17 April 1957

RENEWED SOVIET "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" DRIVE

I. Khrushchev and Bulganin in coordinated public speeches on 15 April (at reception for Albanians in Moscow) kicked off new drive for "peaceful coexistence" and relaxation of international tensions.

II. Also striking that Soviet delegation at London disarmament conference has been most business-like and cooperative since disarmament talks started years ago and are insisting on trying to get "limited agreement."

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III. [REDACTED] Soviet spokesman in Europe urging new conference, preferably on Middle East, to "try to restore confidence between the Soviet Union and the United States.

A. Soviet spokesman emphasizes: "some chance" of "serious conflict;" and "top people should discuss measures to avoid conflict."

IV. USSR probably really wants relaxation of tension. Which would permit:

A. Gradual recovery from loss of prestige suffered over Hungarian episode.

B. Most important, focussing Soviet energies on domestic economic and political problems--especially

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**Khrushchev's sweeping government reorganization
designed to make possible attainment of ambitious
industrial goals set in Five Year Plan (for 1960).
(Soviet reorganization reported NBC 4 April).**

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QUOTES ON "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE"

I. Khrushchev: "Events have taken place of late which have increased tension in international relations. The situation in Hungary was very sharp, just as sharp as Hungarian pepper.... We must exert all efforts to ease international tension, work for the improvement of relations between all countries, and for the consolidation of world peace.... Both the capitalist and socialist countries are on one planet and cannot get away from it. This means that they must coexist and establish peaceful relations."

II. Bulganin: "Considering our main task to be establishment of an enduring and stable peace, settlement of outstanding international problems by means of negotiations and easing of international tension, we are ready to make new efforts for improving our relations with other countries."

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